

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Yoon for conducting the kind and courteous discussion with Applicants' representative, Daniel R. Evans, on July 26, 2005. The content of the discussion is reflected in the amendment to the claims and the following comments.

The rejection of Claims 11-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is believed to be obviated by amendment.

Claim 11 is amended to limit component C) to "an amount of 10% to 30% by weight...". The 10% endpoint is supported on page 13, lines 11-12 of the present specification.

It is kindly requested that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

The rejections of Claims 11-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over any combination of US '500, US '553, and US '857, all of which are of record, are respectfully traversed.

The combined disclosures do not disclose or suggest the agent of Claims 11-16 and 18-20 for coating paper.

US '500 discloses a multi-layer coating for use on paperboard or paper (see Abstract), which optionally contains a thickener (col 7, lines 3-4), exemplified as LV sodium alginate (see col. 10, line 28; col. 11, line 22; and col 11, line 37).

However, US '500 does not disclose or suggest an agent as claimed in Claim 11.

US '553 discloses a grafted PVA-copolymer (col. 13, line 56) or grafted PVP-copolymer (col 14, line 43) compositions that may be used as thickeners for adjusting the viscosity of aqueous solutions (col. 10, lines 56-67). It is noted that US '553 exemplifies a grafted PVA-copolymer composition in Examples 9-10. The grafted PVA-copolymer

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exemplified in Example 10 contains: 2.8 wt% of PVA, 72.9 wt% of methyl methacrylate, 24.4 wt% of methacrylic acid, and 5 wt% of a crotonic acid ester of an oxyethylated C₁₆-C₁₈ oxo alcohol having 25 ethylene oxide units.

It is noted that the exemplified and disclosed grafted PVA- or PVP-copolymer of US '553 is dissimilar from the agent claimed in Claim 11 and claims dependent thereon.

US '857 discloses a stain resistant coating composition containing a *water-insoluble* copolymer (see col. 2, line 53 and col. 2, line 67). The composition disclosed in US '857 is unlike the agent employed in the claimed coating method (see Claim 11).

It is noted that the suggested composition cobbled together from the combined disclosures is dissimilar from the agent recited in the method of Claim 11.

It is kindly requested that the Examiner acknowledge these differences and withdraw these rejections.

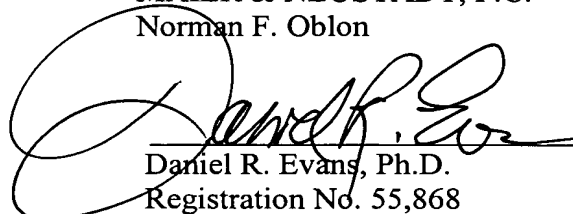
In view of the amendments to the claims and the comments contained herewith, it is believed that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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